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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
25 June 1954

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[redacted]

TO: Deputy Director (Intelligence)

SUBJECT: Second week of Trieste discussions with Italy

The second week of the London discussions among Italy, the United States, and Britain on the proposed Trieste solution continued smoothly with the clarification of several points, although no major progress was made. In the meantime, reports from Rome and Trieste gave evidence that the Italian government was working to restrain political outbursts on the issue during the present phase of the negotiations. Other reports indicated that Premier Scelba's attitude was becoming more favorable to final agreement on the proposals if certain face-saving concessions could be made.

The most difficult problem still to be solved in London appeared to be the question of territorial adjustment between the two zones. On 18 June Italian delegate Brosio gave a somewhat more precise description of the Italian border proposal. (Under this proposal Italy would receive a portion of Zone B approximately equal to a section of Zone A granted to Yugoslavia.) On 22 June Brosio pointed out that this arrangement would add to the Italian zone only slightly more people than would the proposal agreed to by Yugoslavia.

On 22 June, however, American ambassador to Belgrade Riddleberger warned that any attempt to effect major changes in the line accepted by Yugoslavia on 31 May would meet stiff resistance from the Belgrade government.

Other points of the proposals still under discussion were the matters of credit institutions in both zones, fisheries, "free port" provisions, Italian troop entry, and freedom of

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return by refugees and circulation between the zones. On the settlement of financial claims and counterclaims Brosio indicated an Italian willingness to pay a compromise sum. Practically no progress was made on the key problem of the "provisional" versus "definitive" aspects of the solution.

In Trieste city, the Italian government, working through its political adviser there, was attempting to restrain expressions of anti-partition sentiment. The political adviser succeeded in first postponing, then considerably softening a resolution against partition which was finally passed with center party and rightist support in the Communal Council. American political adviser Higgs in Trieste reported on 23 June that he believes the parties agreed to the weakened resolution because they now consider division of the territory inevitable. The Italian Foreign Ministry also inspired a press report that the Trieste Communal Council favored "temporary" partition. 25X1

Meanwhile, various reports from Rome suggested that Scelba was close to agreement on the basic terms of the proposals given Italy on 1 June. An embassy dispatch from Rome stated that Scelba was still determined on three points: (1) the final agreement not to appear as a "diktat" to Italy; (2) reciprocity of concessions to be written into the agreement; and (3) Italy to receive at least some territorial modification in its favor.

On 23 June Piccioni reinforced impressions of government moderation in a parliamentary speech asking for abstention from "polemics" during the present "delicate phase" of the Trieste negotiations. He said further that "the government considers that in the present situation a provisory solution may be the only possible one." The initial Yugoslav press reaction to this speech expressed considerable optimism that this showed an improved Italian attitude.

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The United States and Britain have meanwhile been considering plans for the withdrawal of their troops from Zone A and the takeover by Italian forces after the final settlement. The chief consideration is to set up a dovetailing operation that would exclude a period of divided authority in the zone and would give no opportunity for riots and demonstrations by irresponsible political elements in Trieste. 25X1

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HUNTINGTON D. SHELDON
Assistant Director
Current Intelligence

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